

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02730 221034Z
ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 02730

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJECT: GOU OFFICIALS ANGERED BY CHARGES OF ANTI-SEMITISM

REF: MONTEVIDEO 553

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, DELOFF INQUIRED OF URUGUAYAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REP GIAMBRUNO ABOUT ALLEGATIONS BY GOLDMAN THAT ANTI-SEMITISM WAS A FACTOR IN URUGUAY. GIAMBRUNO REPEATED INDIGNANT REMARKS REPORTED IN REFTEL AND AT OUR REQUEST SUPPLIED US WITH THE PERTINENT PAGES OF A PRESS COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS THE SOURCE OF HIS REPORT THAT PROFESSOR GOLDMAN HAD CHARGED GOU WITH ANTI-SEMITISM.

2. USDEL SUBSEQUENTLY OBTAINED THE COMPLETE TEXT OF GOLDMAN'S PRESS COMMUNIQUE FROM URUGUAYAN EXILE CONTACT IN GENEVA. COPIES POUCHED AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO AND DEPARTMENT, C/O IO-DALLEY.

3. AT TIME OF RECEIPT OF REFTEL GOLDMAN HAD ALREADY DEPARTED GENEVA AND IS SAID TO BE BACK IN WASHINGTON AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW WHERE HE IS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 02730 221034Z

A PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

4. IN THE PRESS COMMUNIQUE GOLDMAN'S CHARGE OF ANTI-SEMITISM RESTS UPON STATEMENTS WHICH HE ATTRIBUTES TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL, COLONEL SILVA LEDESMA. REPEATED BELOW IS THE EXERPT FROM THE PRESS COMMUNIQUE COVERING THE CHARGE OF ANTI-SEMITISM.

5. BEGIN TEXT. "...I'D LIKE TO POINT OUT SOME KEY POINTS WHICH WERE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL, COLONEL SILVA LEDESMA. IN THE COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION, SILVA ADMITTED THAT INCIDENTS OF TORTURE HAD OCCURRED IN DETENTION CENTERS, BY VARIOUS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO UNIDADES MILITARES (UNDERSCORED).

I ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD REVEAL THIS INFORMATION TO THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE AND TO THE WORLD PRESS. HE SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DO SO BECAUSE IT WOULD REFLECT POORLY ON THE MORAL FORCE OF THE ARMED FORCES. I INDICATED TO HIM THAT THIS ADMISSION WAS ENTIRELY INCONSISTENT WITH THE DENIALS OF SUCH PRACTICES THAT URUGUAY CONSISTENTLY HAS ASSERTED TO THE O.A.S. AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. HE DID NOT RESPOND.

I EXPRESSED TO COL. SILVA LEDESMA OUR CONCERN THAT URUGUAYANS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED IN URUGUAY AND ARGENTINA HAD BEEN MURDERED BY OFFICIAL PERSONNEL. HE RESPONDED BY STATING THAT THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY DOES NOT KILL PEOPLE - THAT THEY WERE UNLIKE THE MILITARY IN CHILE AND ARGENTINA WHO KILL ANYONE THEY CAN GET THEIR HANDS ON.

SILVA ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ALL THE LAWYERS WHOSE NAMES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 02730 221034Z

APPEARED IN THE LISTS HAD IN FACT BEEN SUBJECTED TO MILITARY JUSTICE. IN PARTICULAR, IN SPEAKING OF DR. SCHURMANN PACHECO AND OTHERS HE MADE OVERT ANTISEMITIC REMARKS. HE INDICATED THAT THE ONLY THINGS THAT JEWS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT WAS EXTORTING MASSIVE SUMS FROM THEIR POTENTIAL CLIENTS. HE INDICATED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO "CLEAN" URUGUAY'S LEGAL SYSTEM. I HAVE REPORTED THOSE REMARKS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE U.S. AND I CONTACTED ALL MEMBERS OF MAJOR CHURCHES AND THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE. THIS IS INDEED A CAUSE FOR REAL CONCERN SINCE URUGUAY HAS BEEN FREE OF ANTISEMITISM. ..." VANDEN HEUVEL

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